

Howard County, Maryland

Sparrow Big Days

Bonnie Ott and Joanne Solem

Sparrow Big Day 6 October 18, 2008. Leader: Bonnie Ott. Total participants: 11. Ralph Cullison, Joanne Solem, + 8 (names not available). Weather: Not recorded. Time: 7:30 a.m. - ? Total sparrow species: 12. Meeting site: Alpha Ridge Park. Notable bird species: Vesper Sparrow – Alpha Ridge Landfill; Purple Finch – Mt. Pleasant; Great Egret, Marsh Wren, Dickcissel – UMDCF.

Met at Alpha Ridge Park to carpool to the landfill—always thanks to Ralph’s arrangement. We finally picked up a Vesper Sparrow at the last stop at the landfill. Covered the swale at the UMDCF where a Great Egret, a Marsh Wren, and a Dickcissel made for a memorable stop. Group went on to Mt. Pleasant where, after making a tour of the good sparrow haunts, again carpooled and headed west. Made a brief stop at Western Regional Park; ended the day at Waterford Farm.

Although no sparrow rarities were logged during the day, all the expected species were seen, plus a Vesper, and three Dark-eyed Juncos pushing the total to a dozen species—one of the few times a Sparrow Big Day recorded that targeted number.